

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 PM-04

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /037 W

----- 030018

P R 252053Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1078

INFO CNO WASHDC

CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA

COMNAVBASE GTMO BAY CUBA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 2939

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, HA

SUBJECT: RETURN OF HAITIANS

REF: A) COMNAVBASE GTMO BAY CUBA 242023Z NOV 75

B) P-AU-P 2925 (242015Z NOV 75)

C) STATE 277043 (220110Z NOV 75)

1. ALL 25 HAITIANS RETURNED SAFELY TO FRANCOIS DUVALIER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 1015 HRS. LOCAL NOV 25 (251515Z NOV 75) ABOARD US NAVY FLIGHT. EMBOFF VINCENT ACCOMPANIED THEM FROM GTMO, AND DISCUSSED THEIR PROCESSING WITH MAJOR ORCEL, WHO TOOK CUSTODY OF THEM AT AIRPORT.

2. ORCEL SAID THAT HE WOULD CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH RETURNEES TO VERIFY THEIR IDENTITIES, ACCOUNTS OF THEIR DEPARTURE FROM HAITI, AND ARRIVAL AT GTMO. ASSUMING THAT NONE OF THEM HAD OUTSTANDING CRIMINAL CHARGES, IN WHICH HIGHLY UNLIKELY EVENTUALITY THE CASE WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY PRIOR TO ANY GOH ACTION, ALL 25 RETURNEES WOULD BE RETURNED HOME, PROBABLY WITHIN 36 HOURS.

3. EMBOFF TOLD RETURNEES THAT EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM, STATING THAT EMBOFFS WOULD SEEK TO CONTACT THEM IN LEOGANE FROM TIME TO TIME.

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4. ORCEL ASKED EMBOFF IF THERE WAS ANY LIKELIHOOD THAT HAITIANS HAD HAD CHANCE TO VISIT CUBA PRIOR TO THEIR ARRIVAL AT GTMO. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT ASSUMING THEIR DEPARTURE WAS AS STATED, THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD. OTHERWISE, ORCEL SEEMEED MAINLY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING IF ANY YET UNKNOWN PERSONS HAD ASSISTED THE HAITIANS' ILLICIT DEPARTURE FOR PERSONAL GAIN. ORCEL CLAIMED THAT GOH OFFICIALS IN LEOGANE AND ON LA GONAVE ISLAND WERE ALREADY INTERVIEWING PERSONS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE DEPARTURE, ADDING THAT INFORMATION DERIVED FROM THESE INTERVIEWS WOULD BE CHECKED AGAINST THE RETURNEES' OWN ACCOUNTS. ORCEL PROMISED THAT A SUMMARY OF THE GOH FINDINGS WOULD BE PASSED TO THE EMBASSY. ORCEL SAID THAT THE GOH IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DEPARTURES, AND WILL PROBABLY CONDUCT A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN FOR THIS PURPOSE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

5. WE WILL VERIFY EXPECTED RELEASE OF RETURNEES WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL REPORT FURTHER.
THOMSON

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